(c) the number of cases filed against such re-routing of international calls during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, illegal routing of international calls is assessed to have caused a loss of about Rs. 294 Crores to the Government, in the last three years.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps:

- 34 Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells have been created under DOT in various Licence Telecom Service Areas and Major Telecom Districts of the country and the VTM cells with the help of law enforcement agencies constantly endeavor to check illegal routing of international calls through local lines.
- Toll free public number — 1800-110-420 has been opened, so that general public can help the department, in detection of illegal routing of international calls through local lines.
- Surveillance has been increased to detect the fraud by verifying the bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the call traffic.
- VTM Cells under DOT act as the interface between the Security Agencies and Licensed Service Providers.

(c) and (d) The number of case filed, and the quantum of national revenue loss assessed, pertaining to the last three years are:

Year	No. of Set up	Assessed loss
2005	183	Rs. 197.30 Crore
2006	95	Rs. 95.40 Crore
2007	21	Rs. 0.46 Crore
TOTAL:	299	Rs. 293.16 Crore

Impact of submarine cable

†1412. SHRI BALVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian companies are experiencing impact of difficulty of submarine cable;

(b) whether any conspiracy is suspected behind this; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Indian companies experienced the impact of damage to submarine cables.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Village public telephones

1413. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is adopting any procedure for installing the Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in villages under the Bharat Nirman Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of villages where telephone connections have installed in the State of Orissa so far under this scheme, the details, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 unconnected villages in the country progressively by June, 2008. This excludes villages having population less than 100, those lying in thick forest areas and those affected by insurgencies.

(c) As on 31.12.2007, 1,227 villages in the State of Orissa have been provided with VPTs by BSNL. A statement indicating District-wise number of villages provided with VPT facility has been given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of District-wise number of villages provided with VPT facility as on 31.12.2007

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Total number of new VPTs installed
1.	Balasore	4
2.	Baripada	41
3.	Berhampur	47
4.	Bhubneswar (Puri)	249
5.	Bolangir	61
6.	Cuttack	7
7.	Dhenkanal-Keonjhar	68
8.	Kalahandi (Bhawanipatna)	78
9.	Koraput	402
10.	Phulbani	103
11.	Sambalpur	89
12.	Sundergarh (Rourkela)	78
	TOTAL:	1227